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## **FORMER EAST BATON ROUGE POLICE OFFICER SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SEX CRIME**

### *Man Convicted for Attempting to Coerce Minor to Engage in Sexual Act*

**Lake Charles, Louisiana** . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **KARL DAVID KRETSER**, age 43, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was sentenced by United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi **to spend 30 years in prison** for using a facility of commerce to attempt to coerce a minor to engage in criminal sexual acts. **It was also ordered that KRETSER not have access to the internet or children for the rest of his life. KRETSER will also be required to register as a convicted sex offender.** Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

KRETSER was convicted in February 2007 by a federal jury on the charge in the indictment, which was the result of an investigation by the Louisiana Attorney General's Office.

In May and June of 2006, an agent of the Louisiana Attorney General's Office, while in Lake Charles, Louisiana, began communicating with KRETSER in an online chatroom. From the outset, KRETSER believed that he was communicating with a 14-year old girl living in Lake Charles. He initiated sexually explicit conversations and sent the undercover agent pornographic images that he claimed were of himself engaging in sexual acts with other minor children. KRETSER aggressively focused his online chat

on convincing the 14-year old girl to engage in sexual acts with him. In the same conversations he specifically asked that she meet and have sex with him. KRETSEK also requested that the 14-year old girl visit and play with his daughter.

During the online chats, KRETSEK reached agreement with the undercover agent posing as a 14-year old female to meet with him so that they could engage in sexual acts and photograph those acts. The meeting was to be at the Cortana Mall in Baton Rouge. Ultimately, KRETSEK met with the undercover agent at the Cortana Mall and was arrested. After his arrest, KRETSEK admitted that he had engaged in sexually explicit chat with the “girl” and came to pick her up. At trial, KRETSEK denied making that statement, claiming that the agents of the Louisiana State Attorney General’s Office “made it all up.” KRETSEK also claimed that he did not believe he was speaking to an actual minor female. He testified that he regularly did “fantasy chat” and believed that this was just another adult pretending to be a minor.

KRETSEK is a former East Baton Rouge homicide detective who was working as the head of security at the Cortana Mall in Baton Rouge at the time he committed the acts leading to his arrest and conviction.

This case was prosecuted under the Project Safe Childhood Initiative in partnership with the Office of the Louisiana Attorney General. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit: [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Luke Walker.

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